Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Commission or presiding officers of each affected proceeding may, under 10 CFR 2.317, consolidate for hearing on that phase two or more proceedings to consider common issues relating to the applications involved in the proceedings, if it finds that this action will be conducive to the proper dispatch of its business and to the ends of justice. In specifying the place of this consolidated hearing, due regard will be given to the convenience and necessity of the parties, petitioners for leave to intervene, or the attorneys or representatives of such persons, and the public interest.

§ 2.403 Notice of proposed action on applications for operating licenses pursuant to appendix N of 10 CFR part 50.

In the case of applications pursuant to appendix N of part 50 of this chapter for operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, if the Commission has not found that a hearing is in the public interest, the Commission, the Director, Office of New Reactors or Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, as appropriate will, prior to acting thereon, cause to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, pursuant to §2.105, a notice of proposed action with respect to each application as soon as practicable after the applications have been docketed.

 $[73~{\rm FR}~5717,\,{\rm Jan.}~31,\,2008]$

§ 2.404 Hearings on applications for operating licenses pursuant to appendix N of 10 CFR part 50.

If a request for a hearing and/or petition for leave to intervene is filed within the time prescribed in the notice of proposed action on an application for an operating license pursuant to appendix N of part 50 of this chapter with respect to a specific reactor(s) at a specific site, and the Commission, the Chief Administrative Judge, or a presiding officer has issued a notice of hearing or other appropriate order, then the Commission, the Chief Administrative Judge, or the presiding officer

may order separate hearings on particular phases of the proceeding and/or consolidate for hearing two or more proceedings in the manner described in \$2.402.

§ 2.405 Initial decisions in consolidated hearings.

At the conclusion of a hearing held under this subpart, the presiding officer will render a partial initial decision on the common design. The partial initial decision on the common design may be appealed under §2.341. If the proceedings have also been consolidated with respect to matters other than the common design under §2.317(b), the presiding officer may issue a consolidated partial initial decision for those proceedings. No construction permit, full-power operating license, or combined license under part 52 of this chapter will be issued until an initial decision has been issued on all phases of the hearing and all issues under the Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 appropriate to the proceeding have been resolved.

§ 2.406 Finality of decisions on separate issues.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in a proceeding conducted pursuant to this subpart and appendices N of parts 50 or 52 of this chapter, no matter which has been reserved for consideration in one phase of the hearing shall be considered at another phase of the hearing except on the basis of significant new information that substantially affects the conclusion(s) reached at the other phase or other good cause.

§2.407 Applicability of other sections.

The provisions of subparts A, C, G, L, and N of this part relating to construction permits, operating licenses, and combined licenses apply, respectively, to construction permits, operating licenses, and combined licenses subject to this subpart, except as may be qualified by the provisions of this subpart.